



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Typed or Printed Name

Susan M. Alessi

Signature

Susan M. Alessi

Date

01-06-2003

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Address to:
Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket
Confirmation No.

STAN209
3109

First Named Inventor

R. Kuo

Application Number

09/733,266

Filing Date

December 8, 2000

Group Art Unit

1651

Examiner Name

V. Afremova

Title

Methods for Modulation of Oocyte
Activation

21/E
A.93
2/4/03

Sir:

This amendment and response is responsive to the Office Action dated September 6, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before December 6, 2002. A Petition for a One-Month Extension of Time is submitted herewith, making this response due on or before January 6, 2003. Accordingly, this response is timely filed.

In view of the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. AMENDMENTS**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 5 and 15 as follows:

1. A method of activating an oocyte *in vitro*, the method comprising:
- contacting a non-activated oocyte with nitric oxide (NO), an NO donor, nitric oxide synthase (NOS), or inducer of NOS; and,
- maintaining said oocyte until the oocyte has undergone at least one cell division, wherein said activation is performed in the absence of sperm and wherein an oocyte that has undergone at least one cell division indicates that the oocyte is activated.

RECEIVED

JAN 16 2003

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

E1